THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • APRIL 18, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

SC hearing on same-sex marriage to start today

On Tuesday, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and judges Sanjay Kishan Kaul, P S Narsimha, Hima Kohli and S Ravindra Bhat will hear a batch of petitions seeking legalisation of same-sex marriage

The Centre on Monday moved an application before a bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud questioning the maintainability of the pleas, terming them 'urban elitist views'. The SC bench will consider the plea on Tuesday

The hearing will be "live streamed in public interest", the court said

According to the Centre, recognition of marriage is a legislative function, which courts should refrain from deciding

Earlier, the Centre had told the SC that legalising same-sex marriage will create havoc in society given its social and religious implications | P9

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Shettar snaps 40-yr-long ties with BJP, joins Cong

Saffron party loses a prominent Veerashaiva-Lingayat leader from NK

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

Senior BJP leader Jagadish Shettar being welcomed into the Congress by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala, and KPCC president DK Shivakumar, in Bengaluru on Monday.

FORMER chief minister Jagadish Shettar joined the Congress party in the presence of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge after severing his over four decades of relationship with BJP here on Monday.

After former DCM Laxman Savadi, former Athani MLA, joined Congress a few days ago, Shettar, also a prominent Veerashaiva-Lingayat leader, too following suit has come as a big jolt to the saffron party. Both quit the party as they were denied tickets to contest the May 10 Assembly elections. With senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in town, Shettar's decision comes as a shot in the arm for Congress in the run up to the Assembly elections.

"Shettar's entry will boost the Congress' morale," Kharge said and added that he will not only win his seat, but also help others win in many constituencies.

A six-time MLA, Shettar is likely to contest from Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency, which he has been representing in the Assembly since 1994, on Congress ticket this time. He will be contesting against BJP's Mahesh Tenginkai.

"I was hurt when the BJP leadership asked me not to contest the Assembly elections all of a sudden. I will not criticise PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda. I feel they are not aware of the developments in the state BJP, where only a few individuals take decisions ignoring the party's interests," he told reporters at the KPCC office after joining Congress. He said he is happily joining the Grand Old Party.

Shettar indirectly attacked the BJP general secretary in-charge of Karnataka stating that he could have informed him and former minister KS Eshwarappa early that they would not be given tickets. "After winning, I would have resigned gracefully in six months if they asked me to do so," he said. CONTINUED ON: P4

'Insiders controlling BJP'

Former CM Jagadish Shettar expressed anger against a few 'insiders' in the BJP in an open letter. He claimed that a few netas are controlling the party in the state and the central leaders are unaware about it. P4

'Lingayats will back BJP'

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has expressed confidence that Lingayat voters will back BJP in the Assembly polls. "Congress might have taken some BJP leaders, but it can't take away our voters," he said. P4

'Exodus won't affect BJP'

Amid the Congress' claims that the Lingayat community will ditch BJP to support it in the polls, former CM **BS Yediyurappa** asserted that the exit of Jagadish Shettar and Laxman Savadi will not have any impact. P4

Ajit Pawar gets signatures of 40 ready to bolt

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

NCP leader **Ajit Pawar's** efforts to become Eknath Shinde's successor as Maharashtra chief minister in alliance with the BJP, is gaining momentum with the former collecting consent signatures from his lawmakers within his party.

"About 40 of the 53 NCP MLAs have given their consent signatures so far. The list would be presented to the governor when the time arrives," said a well placed source in the party.

This newspaper was the first to report Ajit's plans of stepping into Shinde's shoes, assuming the Supreme Court would disqualify the Sena lawmakers who had rebelled against Uddhav Thackeray.

What is intriguing though is the stony silence of NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar. While Ajit is calling up NCP MLAs personally to seek their signatures, the senior Pawar hasn't made any counter move yet. In 2019 after Ajit bolted, Sharad Pawar had called up all NCP lawmakers to keep his party intact.

"We are surprised Sharad Pawar has not made his phone calls yet," said sources, while keeping their fingers crossed on his last-minute intervention that could tilt the scales.

Ajit skipped his day's scheduled events in Pune and stayed put in Mumbai to continue discussions with his close confidants.

Independent MLA Ravi Rana, who is close to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, said the turning point will come once Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah give their green light.

The BJP is weighing options of timing Shinde's exit — before or after the Supreme Court's verdict or before the Karnataka elections. "Some legal experts have advised that this change should happen before the SC verdict. The logic: if Ajit is sworn in before the judgment, the new government would neither fall nor damage the BJP's prospects. Things are going back and forth. A final call is awaited," said a source in the BJP.

WORTH ₹1,609 CR, MTB RICHEST, DKS STANDS SECOND AT ₹1,400 CR

CHETAN MG @ Bengaluru

MINISTER N Nagaraj aka MTB Nagaraj continues to be the richest candidate in the state with assets worth over Rs 1,609 crore. In the last three years, his assets grew by over Rs 400 crore.

In his affidavit filed for the 2019 byelections, he declared assets worth over Rs 1,200 crore. Perhaps, the businessman-turned politician is among the richest lawmakers in the country.

With assets worth Rs 1,400 crore, KPCC president DK Shivakumar is also among the richest politicians. The Congress party's chief ministerial hopeful, who owns educational institutions and runs real estate and granite businesses among others, is facing 19 criminal cases.

Revenue Minister R Ashoka, who is contesting against Shivakumar in Kanakapura, has declared assets worth over Rs 60 crore.

The affidavits filed by the candidates before the Election Commission have revealed their net worth. There are several candidates whose assets value over Rs 50 crore. Minister Munirathna, who is contesting from Rajarajeshwari Nagar constituency, has assets worth Rs 293 crore, while the worth of former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy's assets exceed Rs 181 crore. His actor son Nikhil Kumaraswamy's assets are worth over Rs 76 crore.

Nikhil, grandson of former PM HD Deve Gowda, has a Range Rover worth Rs 2.16 crore, Lamborghini Aventador worth Rs 2.90 crore, two vanity vans, gym equipment worth Rs 80.51 lakh and holds rights of two Kannada films.

RELATED GFX: P4

BJP third list out, Tenginakai to face Shettar

The Central Election Committee of the BJP on Monday announced the third list of candidates for the Assembly polls. The most prominent among them is party state general secretary Mahesh Tenginkai, who will contest against former chief minister and new Congress member Jagadish Shettar, who is likely to run from the Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency. P4

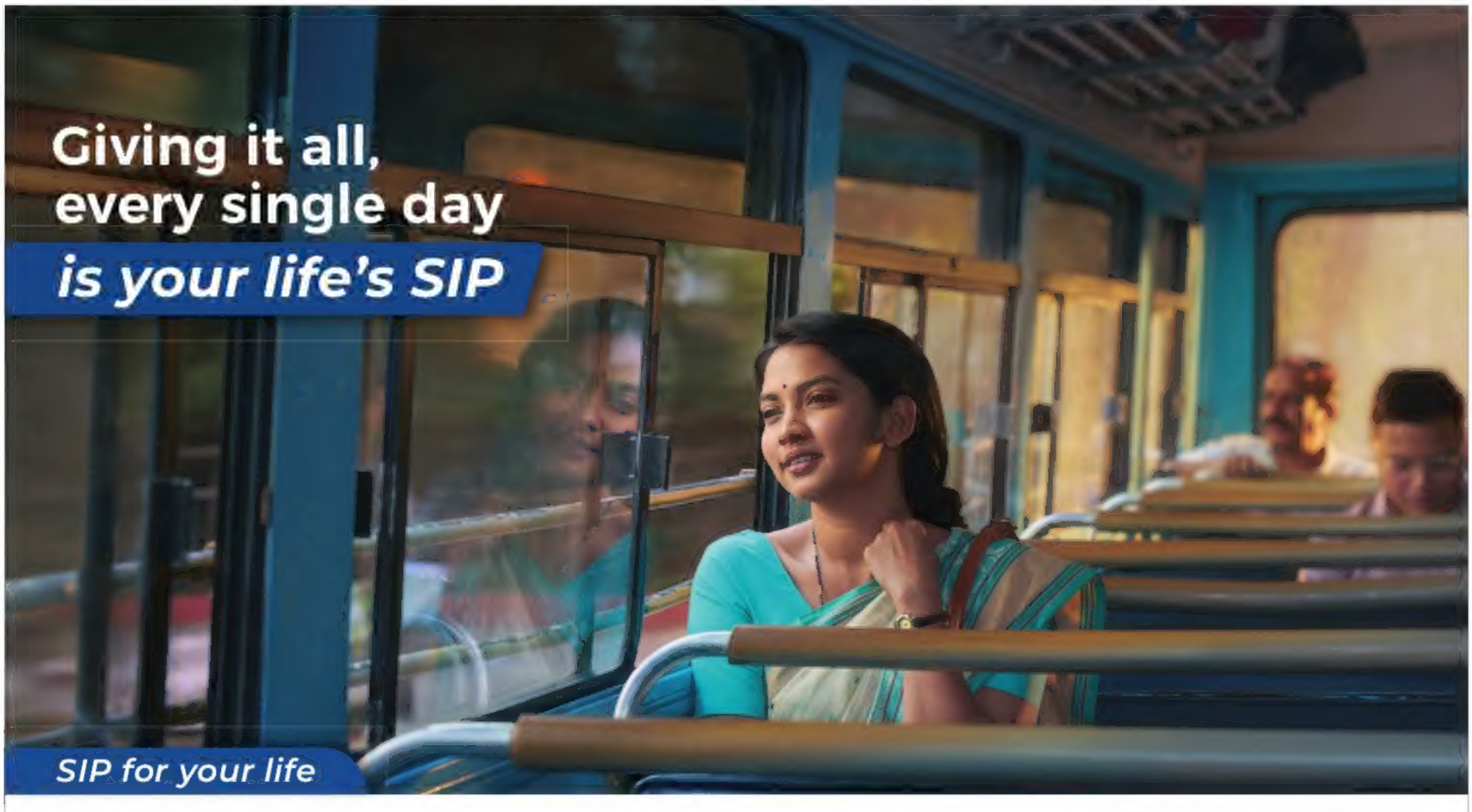
EXPRESS READ

Researchers find traces of shallow inland sea

BENGALURU: To give a better understanding of how the Earth changed, researchers at IISc studying rock deposits in South India have found that there was a composition of a shallow, inland sea in the South Indian region. The researchers estimated the temperature and composition of the water body dating back to the Paleoproterozoic era | P5

CBI arrests TMC MLA in school jobs scam case

KOLKATA/MURSHIDABAD: Trinamool Congress MLA Jiban Krishna Saha was arrested on Monday by the CBI from his residence in West Bengal's Murshidabad district in connection with its investigation into the school jobs-for-bribes scam, officials said. The TMC MLA's arrest drew a sharp reaction from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.



Scan to know more or contact your MFD / RIA

Advantages of SIP

Freedom from timing the market

Flexibility to choose investment amount

HDFC MUTUAL FUND
BHAROSA APNO KA

An Investor Education Initiative

SIP - Systematic Investment Plan. Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints on https://scores.gov.in if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status.

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.